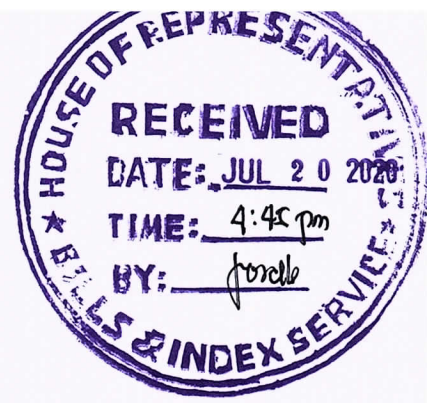


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7131



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 The threat of COVID-19 has taken the entire nation into uncharted waters
2 in battling a disease that spreads a lot like wildfire. Most nations were caught by
3 surprise and even the most developed countries were hit severely by the death
4 tolls and confirmed cases. With everything that has happened and is continuing
5 to happen during this crisis, we are reminded of the old adage that "prevention
6 is better than cure."

7
8 This is where we pick up from this crisis. We need to take every possible
9 learning curve and improve better on our healthcare system, equipment, and
10 supplies. An important aspect in suppressing the spread of the virus has been
11 the need for a community quarantine, and an isolated system for those which
12 are considered persons under investigation and persons under monitoring. Our
13 hospitals were caught by surprise with the number of patients coming to their
14 facilities every single day. In response, the local government units and the
15 national government, in partnership with the private sectors, have turned several
16 establishments into quarantine facilities.

17
18 From this policy standpoint comes the necessity of having a network of
19 permanent quarantine facilities across the archipelago. We cannot wait for
20 another crisis to adequately prepare the necessary buildings for pandemics.
21 Through this legislation, we envision that more than facing the problem head on,
22 we will be prepared beforehand. It is for these reasons that the passage of this
23 bill is earnestly sought.

ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist

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HOUSE BILL NO. **7131**

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AN ACT
CREATING A NETWORK OF PERMANENT QUARANTINE FACILITIES IN
THE PHILIPPINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Quarantine Facilities Act of 2020.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a) “*Quarantine*” refers to strict isolation imposed to prevent the spread of a disease or illness.
- b) “*Pandemic*” refers to the spread of a disease in a worldwide scale.
- c) “*Epidemic*” refers to the spread of a disease to a large number of population in a short period of time.
- d) “*Calamity*” refers to a disastrous even marked by great loss and lasting distress and/or suffering.

SECTION 4. *Creation of a Network of Permanent Quarantine Facilities.* – The Department of Public Works and Highways, with the assistance of the Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Government, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, shall identify,

1 prepare, and provide possible areas within which permanent quarantine facilities
2 may be built to be used during times of pandemics and epidemics. The network
3 of permanent quarantine facilities shall be strategically placed across the
4 Philippines in order to provide an adequate facility in each major island region.

5
6 Each quarantine facility should have adequate supplies and equipment
7 needed for short-term or long-term isolation. Satisfactory and dignified sleeping
8 quarters shall be provided.

9
10 SECTION 5. *During times of calamity* – The quarantine facilities shall be
11 used as evacuation centers in times of calamity when they are not in use during
12 such for epidemics or pandemics.

13
14 When there are no calamities, pandemics, or epidemics, the quarantine
15 facilities shall be used for purposes which the government agencies
16 aforementioned shall deem fit for the current need.

17
18 SECTION 6. *Partnership with local government units* – The quarantine
19 facilities shall be used as evacuation centers in times of calamity when they are
20 not in use during such for epidemics or pandemics.

21
22 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. The Department of
23 Public Works and Highways shall promulgate the implementing rules and
24 regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

25
26 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part of this Act is
27 held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected
28 shall remain in full force and effect.

29
30 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, executive orders, presidential
31 decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and
32 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
33 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

34
35 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
36 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
37 circulation.

38
39 Approved,